



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Fifth Legislature, First Regular Session

AMENDED
FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1127

vehicle speed limits

Purpose

Prohibits a person from exceeding the posted speed limit by more than 20 miles per hour (mph) in certain locations and modifies circumstances under which a waste of a finite resource citation may be issued.

Background

Current statute states that a person is prohibited from exceeding: 1) 35 mph when approaching a school crossing; 2) 20 mph over the posted speed limit in a business or residential area, or no more than 45 mph if there is no posted speed limit; and 3) 85 mph in other locations ([A.R.S. § 28-701.02](#)).

If the maximum speed on a public highway in an urbanized area is 55 mph and a person drives on that highway at a speed of 65 mph or less, the person is guilty of a speeding offense that is designated as the waste of a finite resource. The waste of a finite resource is a civil traffic violation and is not considered when determining whether a person's driver license should be suspended or revoked or when determining a person's motor vehicle insurance rates. The civil penalty for the waste of a finite resource is \$15 plus surcharges ([A.R.S. § 28-702.01](#)). If a person drives at a speed of 65 mph or more in a 55 mph zone, then the offense is designated as a civil traffic violation and is subject to a maximum \$250 civil penalty plus surcharges ([A.R.S. § 28-1598](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Prohibits a person from exceeding the posted speed limit by more than 20 mph in locations other than a school, residential area or business area.
2. States that an offense that involves exceeding the posted speed limit on a public highway by not more than 10 mph may be designated as a waste of a finite resource violation.
3. States that an offense that involves exceeding the posted speed limit on a public highway by more than 10 mph is a civil traffic violation subject to a \$250 penalty with additional surcharges.
4. Allows waste of a finite resource citations to be issued for speeding violations that occur on public highways outside of urbanized areas.

5. Specifies that waste of a finite resource citations only apply on a public highway that has a minimum speed limit of:
 - a) 40 mph in urbanized areas; and
 - b) 30 mph outside of urbanized areas.
6. Makes technical and conforming changes.
7. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Modifies circumstances under which a waste of a finite resource violation may be issued for speeding violations.

Amendments Adopted by Committee of the Whole

1. Allows waste of a finite resource citations to be issued on highways located outside of urbanized zones with 50,000 or more persons.
2. Specifies that waste of a finite resource citations may be issued:
 - a) on highways in urbanized areas if the speed limit on that highway is at least 40 mph; and
 - b) on highways in all other areas if the speed limit on that highway is at least 30 mph.

Senate Action

TAT 2/8/21 DPA 5-4-0

Prepared by Senate Research

March 2, 2021

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